

REMARKS

Applicant, Mr. Aaron L. Enatsky, is thanked for the courtesies extended during the telephonic interview conducted on February 3, 2002. Claims 1-18 are pending. The specification has been amended. Claims 1, and 8 have been amended. No new matter has been added by way of this amendment. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6, 8-15, and 17-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,206,782 B1 to *Walker* et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,146,272 to *Walker* et al., while claims 7 and 16 stand rejected as being unpatentable over the same references in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,383,078 B1 to *Yacenda*. These several rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that "at least one computer is connected to at least one server via an Internet purchaser entering predefined information into the server via the computer, where the at least one server automatically forms at least one virtual group of lottery ticket purchasers based on the predefined information entered by the purchasers, which sets the purchasers for the group, and that the at least one server stores group information for the at least one virtual group which includes entered choices for the predefined information." Support for this limitation may be found at page 8, lines 5-10 of the specification. Accordingly, the claim as amended does not contain new matter.

U.S. Patent No. 6,206,782 B1 to *Walker* et al. relates to a system for facilitating group play by a team of members associated with a casino slot club that comprises a memory storage device and a processor. According to this reference, the memory storage device contains a player database including information relating to each team member, a teams database including information relating to each team, and a team plan database including information relating to a set of rules for allocating rewards to the members of the team when a payout is obtained by, or is due to, a particular team member (see col. 2, lines 47-56). However, this reference fails to teach the limitation "wherein at least one computer is connected to at least one server via an Internet purchaser entering predefined information into the server via the computer, where the at least one server automatically forms at least one virtual group of lottery ticket purchasers based on the predefined information entered by the purchasers, which sets the purchasers for the group, and that the at least one server stores group information for the at least one virtual group which includes entered choices for the predefined information," as set forth in amended independent claim 1.

U.S. Patent No. 6,146,272 to *Walker* et al. discloses a conditional lottery ticket system that processes conditional lottery ticket transactions, including the acceptance and validation of play entries. According to this reference, the conditional lottery ticket system preferably includes a central lottery server and one or more remote lottery terminals. The conditional lottery ticket system permits a player to purchase conditional lottery tickets that are not activated until one or more player-

defined activation conditions are satisfied (see col. 2, lines 25-34). Basically, this reference is directed to the purchase of a single conditional lottery ticket by an individual player. In this case the tickets are not activated until one or more player-defined activation conditions are defined (see *Abs.*). However, this reference fails to cure the deficiency of the *Walker* '782 patent. Specifically, the *Walker* '272 patent also fails to disclose that "at least one computer is connected to at least one server via an Internet purchaser entering predefined information into the server via the computer, where the at least one server automatically forms at least one virtual group of lottery ticket purchasers based on the predefined information entered by the purchasers, which sets the purchasers for the group, and that the at least one server stores group information for the at least one virtual group which includes entered choices for the predefined information," as set forth in amended independent claim 1.

U.S. Patent No. 6,383,078 B1 to *Yacenda* discloses a system and method for facilitating on-line lottery games provided over an electronic network such as the Internet. According to this reference, a lottery player needs to previously subscribe to an Internet service and log on to the Internet and jump to a website providing on-line lottery games in order to participate in on-line lottery games. When a subscriber accesses the Internet, a telephone service provider generates automatic number identification (ANI) information and ANI information is provided to an Internet service provider (ISP) who provides the Internet. Further, the ISP stores the ANI information associated with the location of the subscriber. When the subscriber is

routed to a website providing lottery games, the ISP generates caller identification (ID) information to an agent that provides the website providing on-line lottery games over the Internet. The caller ID information includes the ANI information and is associated with the subscriber (see col. 2, lines 66-67 and col. 3, lines 1-15). However, this reference also fails to cure the deficiency of the *Walker* '782 patent. Specifically, *Yacenda* fails to disclose that "at least one computer is connected to at least one server via an Internet purchaser entering predefined information into the server via the computer, where the at least one server automatically forms at least one virtual group of lottery ticket purchasers based on the predefined information entered by the purchasers, which sets the purchasers for the group, and that the at least one server stores group information for the at least one virtual group which includes entered choices for the predefined information," as set forth and claimed.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue.

Amended independent method claim 8 corresponds to amended independent system claim 1, and hence, is also patentable over the cited references for the same reasons set forth above with respect to the corresponding system claim. Claims 2-7 depend from independent claim 1, claims 9-17 depend from independent claim 8. Thus, those dependent claims are patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons as provided above for independent claims 1 and 8. Therefore,

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applicant submits that the claims of the present application are patentable over the cited references.

If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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